

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claims 2 and 9 and add new Claim 20 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. (Original) A method for testing a solar panel including, at least, both a solar cell and an outer housing, the method comprising:

performing one of a withstand voltage test and an insulation resistance test between a live electrical section electrically connected to the solar cell and a conductor section of the outer housing, and thereafter

applying a voltage between the live electrical section and the conductor section.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The A method according to claim 1, wherein the voltage applied between the live electrical section and the conductor section is for testing a solar panel including, at least, both a solar cell and an outer housing, the method comprising:~~

performing one of a withstand voltage test and an insulation resistance test between a live electrical section electrically connected to the solar cell and a conductor section of the outer housing, and thereafter

applying an alternating current voltage between the live electrical section and the conductor section.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the outer housing is a bottom surface reinforcement member for reinforcing the bottom surface of the solar panel.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the solar panel comprises a metal plate.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 4, wherein the metal plate is a stainless steel sheet.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the voltage applied between the live electrical section and the conductor section of the outer housing is fed from a utility power line.

7. (Original) A method for inspecting a solar panel generating system including a solar panel including, at least, both a solar cell and an outer housing, the method comprising:

performing one of a withstand voltage test and an insulation resistance test between a live electrical section electrically connected to the solar cell and a conductor section of the outer housing, and thereafter

applying a voltage between the live electrical section and the conductor section.

8. (Original) An apparatus for testing a solar panel including, at least, both a solar cell and an outer housing, the apparatus comprising:

a means for performing one of a withstand voltage test and an insulation resistance test between a live electrical section electrically connected to the solar cell and a conductor section of the outer housing, and

a means for applying a voltage between the live electrical section and the conductor section after the one of the withstand voltage test and the insulation resistance test has been performed.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the voltage applied between the live electrical section and the conductor section is for testing a solar panel including, at least, both a solar cell and an outer housing, the apparatus comprising:

a means for performing one of a withstand voltage test and an insulation resistance test between a live electrical section electrically connected to the solar cell and a conductor section of the outer housing, and

a means for applying an alternating current voltage between the live electrical section and the conductor section after the one of the withstand voltage test and the insulation resistance test has been performed.

10. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the outer housing is a bottom surface reinforcement member for reinforcing the bottom surface of the solar panel.

11. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the solar panel comprises a metal plate.

12. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the metal plate is a stainless steel sheet.

13. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the voltage applied between the live electrical section and the conductor section of the outer housing is fed from a utility power line.

14. (Original) An apparatus for inspecting a solar panel generating system including a solar panel including, at least, both a solar cell and an outer housing, the apparatus comprising:

a means for performing one of a withstand voltage test and an insulation resistance test between a live electrical section electrically connected to the solar cell and a conductor section of the outer housing, and

a means for applying a voltage between the live electrical section and the conductor section after the one of the withstand voltage test and the insulation resistance test has been performed.

15. (Original) A method for manufacturing a solar panel including, at least, a solar cell, a surface protective covering member for encapsulating the solar cell, and an outer housing, the method comprising:

encapsulating the solar cell with the surface protective covering member;
performing one of a withstand voltage test and an insulation resistance test
between a live electrical section electrically connected to the solar cell and a conductor
section of the outer housing; and thereafter
applying a voltage between the live electrical section and the conductor
section.

16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the
means for performing performs the insulation resistance test.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the
means for performing performs the withstand voltage test.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein in the
performing step, the insulation resistance test is performed.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein in the
performing step, the withstand voltage test is performed.

20. (New) A method for manufacturing a solar panel including, at least, a
solar cell, a surface protective covering member for encapsulating the solar cell, and an
outer housing, the method comprising:

encapsulating the solar cell with the surface protective covering member;

performing one of a withstand voltage test and an insulation resistance test between a live electrical section electrically connected to the solar cell and a conductor section of the outer housing; and thereafter

applying an alternating current voltage between the live electrical section and the conductor section.